U.S. Serial No. 09/879,034 Attorney Docket No.: 37872-0004 Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be made before examination of the present application. Claims 1-6 and 10-12 have been canceled. Claims 1-6 were added in the Amendment filed May 14, 2004 as new claims 13-17 to avoid improper dependencies. Claim 7 has been amended to further distinguish the claimed invention. Support for amended claim 7 can be found at page 6, first paragraph and Figure 5 of the specification. No new matter has been added by the above amendments, which are fully supported by the specification. A first office action on the merits is awaited. Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 15 2004

Customer No. 26633 HELLER EHRMAN WHITE &

MCAULIFFE LLP

1666 K Street, N.W., Suite 300

Washington, DC 20006

Telephone: (202) 912-2142 Facsimile: (202) 912-2020

Patricia D. Granados Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 33,683